

ARMED SHIPS PROBLEM MAY BE TAKEN FROM PRESIDENT WILSON AND DETERMINED BY CONGRESS

Sentiment in Senate Favoring Some Such Action Is Expressed Openly But Is Withheld Because of Embarrassing Features

DIPLOMATIC BREAK MIGHT MEAN WAR

Word Comes From President. He Is Still Unalterably Opposed to Action by Congress That Would Discredit Him

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Another Italian steamship, the San Guglielmo, arrived today from Genoa and Naples with two three-inch guns mounted aft. She is the fifth armed Italian liner to arrive here recently. Each gun was manned by two gunners of the Italian navy and one of the vessel's officers said they were provided with 200 rounds of ammunition.

The captain reported no submarines had been sighted during the voyage. The San Guglielmo carried 117 second cabin and 359 steerage passengers.

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Agitation in congress for action warning Americans off armed ships of the European belligerents suddenly grew to such proportions today that the democrats of the foreign affairs committee voted to canvass the sentiment of the house on several pending resolutions of that nature.

Sentiment in the senate in favor of some such action also was expressed openly, but at the end of a day of surprises, tension and agitation such as has not been seen in congress in some time, the word came that President Wilson still was unalterably opposed to any such action by congress and that he would only be embarrassed thereby in the negotiations with Germany.

To widely circulated suggestions that the situation had reached a point where the president soon would lay before congress that Secretary Lansing might in some way define the attitude of the government in a communication to Senator Stone and that a time had been fixed within which the United States would expect Germany to signify her intention to abandon the announced intention to sink armed merchant ships without warning, the official statement was made officially that nothing had been determined upon; that the situation though grave, still was a waiting one, and that no final position would be announced until Berlin was heard from.

The sudden developments at the capital brought surprise and apprehension to the administration leaders. While confronted with the possibility of congressional interference with all its grave aspects ranging from a defection from the administration policy, to downright embarrassment of the president and the secretary of state, the leaders were confident they would control the situation and leave the executive branch of the government free to carry on diplomatic negotiations with Germany.

At no time today did the question come out openly on the floor of either the house or the senate, but about a score of congressmen who announced they were in favor of warning Americans, even if it involved a repudiation of the administration policy, if thereby they thought war would be averted, kept both houses in a state of tension that practically blocked business.

All the demonstration was in the democratic ranks and there was no open show of sentiment among the republicans. It was indicated, however, that Republican Leader Mann sympathized with President Wilson's policy.

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BRITISH STEAMER REACHES SANTA CRUZ WITH GERMAN PRIZE CREW ABOARD

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] LONDON, Feb. 23.—A dispatch received from Santa Cruz, Tenerife (Canary Islands) says the British steamer Westburn has put in there for repairs, flying the German flag and with a prize crew of seven men and one officer. The officer is believed to belong to the German raider Mowee.

In addition to her own crew, there are 206 prisoners taken from various British vessels on the Westburn. The Westburn left Liverpool, January 21, for Buenos Aires.

The Westburn is a vessel of 2500 tons. She was built in 1892, and is owned by J. Westall of Sunderland. The prisoners on board came from the British steamers, Florence, Horace, Clan McTavish and Cambridge, the British bark Edinburgh and the Belgian steamer Luxembourg.

The Westburn, after her departure from Liverpool, was last reported as passing St. Vincent, Cape Verde, February 4. The Florence left Newport, England, for Valparaiso, January 21, and the Horace left Buenos Aires, January 26 for Liverpool. The Luxem-

bourg was on a voyage from Newport for Buenos Aires, having departed for the South American port January 18. The bark Edinburgh sailed from Rangoon, India, September 22, for Liverpool. The Luxembourg and the Florence had met a similar fate. The Mowee, which captured the British South African liner Appam which was later taken into Hampton Roads by a German prize crew, in addition to disposing of the Clan McTavish, destroyed six other steamers, the Corbridge, which probably is the Cambridge referred to in the London dispatch; Trader, Athol, Ariadne, Drumbois and Farrington.

The fact that the steamer Westburn has among the prisoners on board men from the British steamer Clan McTavish, which was sunk after an exciting battle by the German raider Mowee off the east coast of Africa in January, seemingly would indicate that the Florence, Horace, Edinburgh and Luxembourg had met a similar fate. The Mowee, which captured the British South African liner Appam which was later taken into Hampton Roads by a German prize crew, in addition to disposing of the Clan McTavish, destroyed six other steamers, the Corbridge, which probably is the Cambridge referred to in the London dispatch; Trader, Athol, Ariadne, Drumbois and Farrington.

ASQUITH FACES DEMAND FOR HIS VIEWS ON PEACE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] LONDON, Feb. 23.—Premier Asquith found himself unexpectedly face to face in the house of commons today with a new demand for the government's views on peace. He took up the gauntlet almost eagerly and in a brilliant fifteen minute speech made it clear that the British government's determination to carry the war to an end without compromise had not abated since the early days of the struggle.

The only terms of peace Premier Asquith offered to the enemy countries were contained in the historic announcement which was the outstanding feature of his speech at the London guildhall in November, 1914, which he repeated:

"We shall never sheath the sword, which we have not tightly drawn, until Belgium—and, I will add, Serbia—recover in full measure all and more than they have sacrificed; until France is adequately secured against aggression; until the rights of the small nations of Europe are based upon an

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LYMAN KEEPS IN TOUCH WITH WIFE BY ADS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—J. Grant Lyman, who is being sought by the federal authorities in connection with the collapse of a stock promotion venture through which investors all over the country are alleged to have been swindled out of approximately \$300,000, has been in communication with friends here by means of code advertisements in newspapers. It was intimated at a hearing before United States Commissioner Alexander Gilchrist today.

Mrs. Leontine Lyman, wife of the missing "broker," admitted that an advertisement for an English valet, which appeared recently, probably was intended for her information. She refused, however, to disclose its significance, asserting that she would "do everything in her power to protect her husband from everybody."

After persistent questioning by the commissioner, Mrs. Lyman became excited and exclaimed that she was being persecuted.

"These questions," she added, "make me sick. You can arrest me and put

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ALLEGED BLACKMAIL RING LEADER IS UNDER ARREST

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 23.—Louis P. Schler, 47 years old, and married, alleged ringleader of an alleged blackmailing syndicate which preyed upon wealthy Seattle business men, was arrested today on a charge of attempting blackmail. He was released on \$5,000 bond signed by his wife.

The specific charge upon which Schler was arrested was that he attempted to extort \$2,000 from a prominent mining promoter of Seattle. Photographs taken in the house used by the blackmailers as their headquarters are said to be in the hands of the prosecuting attorney for use against Schler.

Schler stoutly denied the charge.

which he said was a "pure fake," but admitted acquaintance with Isabel Clayburg, under arrest in Los Angeles on complaint of Seattle and Lillian Peterson, who disappeared from Billings, Mont., before the authorities there received instructions to arrest her. Schler declined to discuss his relations with the women.

Sheriff Robert Hodge said today that no specific charge had been brought against Elsie Coats, whose arrest he asked of the Los Angeles police, but he desired that she be taken into custody for investigation.

Habeas Corpus Writ Issued. LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23.—A writ of habeas corpus, returnable February 29, was issued today by Judge John M. York in the superior court on behalf of Mrs. Isabel Clayburg, who was arrested yesterday on telegraphic advices from Sheriff Robert Hodge of Seattle, that she was charged with being a member of an alleged blackmail syndicate which operated in that city.

The arrest of Miss Elsie Coats, a young woman who is said to have been living here recently with Mrs. Clayburg, was requested in a telegram to the sheriff's office from Sheriff Hodge today. The telegram did not say whether a warrant had been issued, or what charge, if any, had been preferred against Miss Coats. Deputies were unable to find her.

Attorneys for Mrs. Clayburg received information by wire, so they said, from their Seattle correspondents, to the effect that the wealthy alleged victims of the so-called blackmail syndicate had said they would not appear in a prosecution against Mrs. Clayburg and others accused with her.

MRS. ARCHBOLD IS BITTEN BY RATTLESNAKE

THOMASVILLE, Ga., Feb. 23.—Mrs. John F. Archbold, daughter-in-law of John D. Archbold of the Standard Oil company, was bitten by a rattlesnake while hunting on the Archbold estates near here today. Physicians said her wound would not prove fatal. Mrs. Archbold shot the snake after she had been bitten.

MAY CAUSE BIG CAR SHORTAGE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Abnormal export trade of the eastern states due to enormous orders for war materials and provisions from European countries, has resulted in the eastern railroads detaining thousands of cars owned by western lines, thereby threatening disaster to western crops, according to F. H. Funk, a member of the Illinois public utilities commission, who arrived here today. Accompanied by E. I. Wayne, a director of the Illinois Grain Dealers Association, Mr. Funk left tonight for Washington for a conference with the interstate commerce commission. Approximately 50,000 cars must be provided for the movement of corn in Illinois alone within the next 30 days, or a serious loss will be entailed, Mr. Funk asserted.

Ten Thousand Flood Victims Need Assistance

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] NATCHEZ, Miss., Feb. 23.—Approximately 10,000 persons in the flooded district of northern Louisiana are in need of assistance, according to a statement made in an appeal received here tonight from Mayor W. M. Davidson of St. Joseph. He said most of the sufferers were negro tenants on plantations.

"You can count the number of planters on the fingers of one hand who are able to provide for their negroes," he stated. "The negroes on the levee have been given rations from private sources and provided with lumber to build shacks, but there are only 146 of this class of refugees by actual count."

Mayor Jacoby of Newellton was quoted tonight as stating that the civilian population considered government aid necessary.

DON'T LIKE THE NICARAGUA PACT

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] SAN SALVADOR, Feb. 23.—The people of San Salvador today held a meeting in protest against the ratification by the United States senate of the treaty between the United States and Nicaragua, Salvador Merles was the principal speaker, and his address was strongly applauded. There was no disorder and the crowd dispersed peacefully.

Dr. Salvador Castro, former Nicaraguan minister to the United States and who while in Washington took part in the negotiations of the treaty with Secretary of State Knox, was the object of a hostile manifestation. The police intervened, however, and protected him.

ROYAL MARRIAGE WENT ALL WRONG

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—An interlocutory decree of divorce was granted to Princess Evelyn Partridge Engaltheff, daughter of Charles N. Partridge of Chicago, in her suit against Prince Nicholas Vladimirovich Engaltheff of Russia in a decision handed down today by Justice Bijur of the supreme court. The case was the only one on record in this country where there was a dispute as to whether the suit could be tried here or in the courts of Russia. The defendant contended his Russian citizenship entitled him to a trial of the issues in his own country.

COMPULSORY BATH PROVOKES STANFORD STUDENT TO WRATH

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] PALO ALTO, Cal., Feb. 23.—A compulsory bath said to have been administered to David Malcolm Ross of Modesto, a student at Stanford University, by eighteen of his fellow students, provoked Ross to appeal today to the law as represented by Justice of the Peace S. W. Charles of Palo Alto.

Ross, who was "tubbed," he told the justice, because he had refused to perform freshmen duty, asked that warrants be issued for the arrest of his alleged assailants.

Forceful tubbing, Ross insisted, constituted an assault. Furthermore, he explained, tubbing of this kind had been officially banned at the university. And anyhow, he said, sophomores had no right to tub him as was done at the Annapolis Naval Academy prior to his entering Stanford entitled him to sophomore standing.

Judge Charles persuaded Ross to take his troubles to Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, president of the university, who referred the matter to the student council, which, it was announced, will hold a special conference for the consideration of Ross' complaint.

VERDUN FORTRESS GOAL FOR WHICH GERMANS ARE BATTLING ONWARD

Troops Belonging to Seven Army Corps Are Engaged Along Twenty-Five Mile Front in Effort to Drive the French Back

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] Troops belonging to seven German army corps under Crown Prince Frederick William, are engaged along a 25-mile front north of Verdun in a desperate effort to drive back the French defending forces, probably with the capture of the great fortress of Verdun in view.

There had been very heavy fighting for a considerable period in this district of the French war zone, but within the last few days the attacks of the Germans have taken on added strength. The battle line has been extended and now reaches from Malancourt, on the west, to Etain, on the east, with Verdun in the center, only a few miles southward.

The Germans claim to have made important advances, and to some extent these are admitted by the French war office, which describes the battle as one of increasing intensity.

The German preparations were extensive, and the bombardment of the French positions with thousands of shells was uninterrupted. As the French had foreseen this battle all their available guns were called into action and responded in kind to the heavy shelling of the Germans.

While at some points the French were unable to resist the onslaught of the attacking forces along much of the front, according to the Paris communication, the attacks were well sustained and very heavy losses were inflicted on the Germans.

Another British steamer, the Westburn, has put into port flying the German flag and with a German prize crew aboard. This vessel has reached Santa Cruz, Tenerife. She has on board 206 prisoners taken from various British vessels, which have been sunk by German raiders.

In the British parliament Premier Asquith, in reply to questions concerning the possibility of peace, reiterated his former pronouncement that there would be no peace until conditions previously set down were met. These included the restoration of Belgium and Serbia, and the overthrow of "Prussian militarism."

While President Wilson is said to be unalterably opposed to any action by congress with respect to warning Americans off armed merchantmen of the belligerent nations of Europe, agitation in congress in this direction has grown to marked proportions, and Washington advices today say the democrats of the foreign affairs committee have voted to canvass the sentiment of the house on several pending

SMALLPOX BREAKS OUT IN OREGON PRISON

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 23.—With the discovery of two new cases of smallpox among the inmates of the Oregon penitentiary, officials of the institution decided today to vaccinate all of the 560 prisoners and also the employees. The disease was brought to the institution by a paroled convict.

resolutions bearing on that question. The administration leaders at Washington, it is further declared, are confident that they will be able to control the situation so that the executive branch of the government may be free to carry on diplomatic negotiations with Germany.

On the Russian and Austrian fronts there has been considerable fighting, and the Italians admit that at one point the Austrians succeeded in penetrating their lines. No late advices have been received from the Caucasus, where the Russians are continuing their pursuit of the retreating Turks.

Battle of Verdun Continues.

PARIS, Feb. 23.—The battle of Verdun continues with growing intensity. It extends over a front of forty kilometers (25 miles) and seven German army corps (250,000 men) are engaged. This announcement was made officially by the war office tonight.

The great battle is being followed with the most intense interest by the public. It disposes effectively of the question whether the Germans would make an early offensive. The battle is the first on a large scale since the offensive in the Champagne in September and is believed to be the forerunner of stirring and possibly decisive events.

The principal fighting centers in the rough and thickly wooded country between Etain and Damvillers. Here some 300,000 of the German crown prince's best infantry are trying to wrest from the French important roads which would enable them to make their way through to the Meuse. The battle as yet is only beginning, but it is said already to have cost the assailants of the French heavy casualties and without any appreciable advantage being attained.

The Germans have been making preparations for a big stroke at Verdun, so openly during the past month that the French had every chance to get ready for them. The attacks up to the present only involve the advanced lines, which are at least two miles beyond the outer defenses of the fortress.

Military opinion here is inclined to doubt that the Germans will attempt to carry Verdun by storm. It is pointed

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BADGER TO TELL NEED OF NAVY SECOND TO NONE

International Considerations Which Caused Navy General Board to Declare for Supremacy to Be Disclosed in Executive Session

MAY MEAN TWO ADEQUATE FLEETS

Possible Necessity of Guarding Both Coasts at Same Time, and Uncertainty of Canal Because of Slides to Be Discussed

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—International considerations which moved the navy general board to change its time-honored policy last year and declare that the United States navy should equal the strongest afloat by not later than 1925 will be disclosed to the house naval committee tomorrow in executive session by Rear Admiral Charles J. Badger, a member of the board. The examination of Admiral Badger in open session was concluded today, the admiral consistently refusing to discuss, except behind closed doors, the board's views of dangers which may confront the nation.

The subject came up when Representative Stephens of California, seeking to show that the Pacific coast was inadequately defended, asked if the board, in altering its policy, did not have in mind the possibility that the country might have to face simultaneously enemies in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Admiral Badger said he could answer that only in executive session. He explained, however, that a fleet capable of dominating the Pacific ocean was the only sure protection for the Pacific coast and said that the earth slides in the Panama Canal had made impossible for the present and possibly for another year the use of the fleet in both oceans. Further discussion of the canal closure also was deferred to the closed session.

Admiral Badger expressed the opinion that should the United States adopt a two-power standard navy, such as was recommended by the general board, Great Britain would not alter her rate of construction, at least until the gap between the two fleets had been materially reduced. Earlier in his testimony he had said he could

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TWO INVESTIGATIONS OF "SPLIT SALARY" CHARGES MAY BRING ABOUT CLASH

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Probability of a clash of official investigations of the city hall scandal growing out of "split salary" charges made by Mrs. Page Waller Eaton, former superintendent of social surveys, against her official superior, Mrs. Louise Osborne Rowe, head of the city department of public welfare, developed today. Both the civil service commission and the council civil service committee planned to begin investigations tomorrow and witnesses were summoned by both bodies.

Mrs. Eaton said she would recognize the authority of the council committee hearing and in an open letter to Mayor Thompson referred to the civil service commission hearing as a "joke."

She urged the mayor to submit the whole affair to a committee to be selected from the mayor's advisory board of business men and asserted her innocence of sharing in any political plot against the administration.

On the order of the civil service commission the pay roll of the department of public welfare was held up, pending the investigation.

Mayor Thompson declared his complete confidence in Fred Lundin, former congressman and political adviser of the mayor. He criticized Mrs. Eaton for inconsistency in not having preferred her charges the time when she asserted the first demand for a part of her salary was made.

The mayor and the president of the civil service commission attributed the charges to a political plot against the administration and the head of the civil service commission gave out a resolution of the commission calling tomorrow's inquiry and declaration

ing that council committee investigations in the past often had proved "fruitless and farcical."

Possibility that the charges might be laid before the state's attorney for attention in the criminal court were discussed in political circles.

In answer to reports that the Thompson majority campaign fund had been swelled by money derived from persons on the municipal pay roll, Mayor Thompson said:

"The truth about the Thompson

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upon the lives of members of the rival society. Reports that a truce was declared last night were said to be incorrect.

The peace pact was signed in the quarters of the Chinese Benevolent Association. Two hours of discussion preceded the signing of the truce. Effort was made by the peace society representatives to harmonize permanently the difficulties between the rival tongs, but the best they could do was to obtain a truce. During the next 29 days further negotiations will be carried on in the hope that a basis for permanent peace may be reached.

Two slain and two wounded in Portland; one slain at Roseburg and one wounded at La Grande is the net result in casualties since the tong war broke out on February 17 last.

Banquet Is Postponed

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 23.—As an echo of the tong outbreak in the north came the announcement today of the postponement of the annual banquet of the Bing Kong Tong, which was to have been held in the Chinese quarter here tonight.

According to the police the Bing Kong men have gone into hiding. The Hong Sing, on the other hand, were very much in evidence and leaders of the tong admitted, said the police, that serious trouble was imminent.

TECHNICAL OBJECTIONS TO INDICTMENTS ARE CLEARED AWAY BY JUDGE DOOLING

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 23.—Judge Maurice T. Dooling of the United States district court, cleared all technical objections today to the indictments brought against Baron E. H. von Schack, German vice consul here, and twenty-six other individuals and firms for alleged violations of American neutrality. All are charged with having conspired to supply German warships at sea; with making the port of San Francisco a naval base; and with attempting to provision belligerent vessels.

Attorneys for the defendants sought to dismiss the indictments or failing in this to abate them, on the ground

that no competent testimony had been given to the grand jury upon which to base the indictments. Permission was requested to put grand jurors on the stand to prove the contention.

Judge Dooling denied the motion to dismiss and upheld the government's demurrer to the motions to abate, and overruled demurrers to the indictments.

In referring to the request of the defendants' counsel to quash the grand jurors, Judge Dooling said "the method is ingenious but I fear ineffectual."

Mrs. Annette Adams, assistant United States district attorney, opposed the battery of legal talent for the defense in the argument of the motions.